

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. An application for providing access to media files on a digital device, the application comprising a computer readable storage medium having computer-readable  
5 program instructions embodied in the medium, the computer-readable program instructions comprising:

first instructions for generating a media view that provides access to digital media files and associates digital media files with a period of time; and

second instructions for generating a media handle that provides the ability  
10 to browse a view generated by the application over several periods of time.

2. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further provides the ability to browse periods of time within a view of the application according to a chosen browse parameter.

3. The application of Claim 2, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle provides for the ability to browse periods of time within a view of the application according to a browse parameter chosen from any combination of items of metadata associated with the media files.

4. The application of Claim 2, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle provides for the ability to browse periods of time within a view of the application according to a browse parameter chosen from one or more items of metadata associated with periods of time.

5. The application of Claim 3, wherein the item of metadata is chosen from the group consisting of time, media file type, media file size, media file bookmark, media file annotation, media file representation, media file title, media file name, topic, content, location, situation, preferences, contact information, names of people, names of  
30 electronic devices, technical information of electronic devices, items described in the media file and tables of content information.

6. The application of Claim 2, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further includes instructions for decreasing the speed of the browsing when the application determines that an approaching media file is in accord with the  
5 chosen browse parameter.

7. The application of Claim 6, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further includes instructions for decreasing the speed of the browsing in relation to the distance of the approaching media file and extent of a deviation of the  
10 media handle from the centerline position.

8. The application of Claim 2, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further includes instructions for increasing the speed of the browsing when a media file, in accord with the chosen browse parameter, bypasses a centerline of a  
15 view generated by the application.

9. The application of Claim 8, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further includes instructions for increasing the speed of the browsing in relation to the distance of the bypassing media file and extent of a deviation  
20 of the media handle from the centerline position.

10. The application of Claim 1, wherein the first instructions associate digital media files with a period of time based upon information associated with the digital media file.  
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11. The application of Claim 1, further comprising third instructions for generating a calendar view that represents time in calendar format and associates events with respective periods of time

12. The application of Claim 11, wherein the first instructions for generating a media view that provides access to digital media files and associates digital media files  
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with a period of time, associates digital media files with a past period of time and wherein the third instructions for generating a calendar view that represents time in calendar format and associates events with respective periods of time, associates events with respective future periods of time.

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13. The application of Claim 2, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle that provides the ability to browse periods of time within a view of the application according to a chosen browse parameter further includes instructions for browsing the media items by stepping directly to the period of time including the media  
10 file having the chosen browse parameter.

14. The application of Claim 2, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle that provides the ability to browse periods of time within a view of the application according to a chosen browse parameter further includes instructions to  
15 browse a media view, a calendar view and a time bar.

15. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further provides for a browsing step function that is proportional to a movement of the media handle along a time bar.  
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16. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further provides for generating a center mark on the media handle that indicates the period of time that is browsed to a centerline of the view of the application.

25 17. The application of Claim 1, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further provides for a speed of browsing that is proportional to the distance that the media handle is deviated from a centerline position on a view of the application.

30 18. The application of Claims 17, wherein the second instructions for generating a media handle further provides for a speed of browsing that accelerates when

the media handle is deviated a certain distance from the centerline position on the view of the application.

19. The application of Claim 17, wherein the second instructions for  
5 generating a media handle further includes instructions for increasing the speed of  
browsing as the distance from the centerline position is increased.

20. The application of Claim 17, wherein the second instructions for  
generating a media handle further includes instructions for decreasing the speed of  
10 browsing as the distance from the centerline position is decreased.

21. The application of Claim 18, wherein the third instructions for generating  
a media handle further includes instructions for decreasing the speed of the browsing  
when a media file in accord with the chosen browse parameter enters a viewable area of  
15 the display and increasing the speed of the browsing when the media file in accord with  
the chosen browse parameter bypasses the viewable area of the display.

22. A digital device, the device comprising:  
a processing unit that executes computer-readable program instructions for  
20 accessing media files, the computer-readable program instructions comprising:  
first instructions for generating a media view that provides access  
to digital media files and associates digital media files with a period of time, and  
second instructions for generating a media handle that provides the  
ability to browse a view generated by the application over several periods of time;  
25 and  
a display in communication with the processing unit that presents a  
combined view of the media view and the media handle.

23. The digital device of Claim 22, wherein the processing unit that executes  
30 computer-readable program instructions for accessing media files, the computer-readable  
program instructions comprising further comprises a third instructions for generating a

calendar view that represents time in calendar format, associates events with respective periods of time and is presented by the display in combination with the media view and media handle.

5           24.     A method for browsing media files in a media application, the method comprising the steps of:

                  providing for a media view and a media handle on a display associated with a device implementing the media application;

                  deviating, the media handle, a distance from a centerline position on the  
10       display; and

                  setting the browse speed according to the distance that the media handle deviates from the centerline position in order to locate a desired media file representation within the media view.

15           25.     The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of adjusting the deviation distance an appropriate amount and adjusting the browse speed according to the adjusted deviation distance to locate the desired media file within the media view.

                  26.     The method of Claim 24, further comprising the step of defining a browse  
20       parameter prior to deviating, the media handle, a distance from a centerline position on the display.

                  27.     The method of Claim 26, wherein the step of defining a browse parameter  
25       prior to deviating, the media handle, a distance from a centerline position on the display further comprises defining a browse parameter chosen from the group consisting of time, media file type, metadata information, media file bookmarks, and media file representation.

                  28.     The method of Claim 27, further comprising altering, automatically, the  
30       browse speed when media files of a type associated with the desired media file are within the media view.

29. The method of Claim 28, wherein the step of automatically altering the browse speed when media files of a type associated with the desired media file are within the media view further comprises automatically decreasing the browse speed when media  
5 files of a type associated with the desired media file are within the media view and increasing the browse speed when media files of a type associated with the desired are not within the media view.